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Choice of Danzansky for key security post angers conservatives

By Bill Gertz
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A liberal Republican is expected to be named to the National Security Council's top economic post, which could set off another dispute between the White House officials and conservatives.

Stephen I. Danzansky, a lawyer active in District of Columbia politics and sports, will be named in the near future as special assistant to the president for international economic affairs at the NSC, administration sources told The Washington Times.

The post is a key slot as the White House prepares for the November summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Danzansky, who declined to return phone calls, is currently a partner with the Washington law firm of Wilie, Farr and Gallagher. He was president of the Washington Diplomats soccer team until the team was sold in 1980.

White House spokesman Edward Djerejian said Roger W. Robinson Jr., who is currently the NSC international economic affairs director, will be leaving in the near future. Mr. Djerejian said he could not comment on a replacement for Mr. Robinson "until all the nominations are cleared."

While several conservatives criticized the choice, only one critic put his objections on the record. Miles Costik, president of the Institute for Strategic Trade, said the appointment would be a "disaster."

He said Mr. Danzansky has no qualifications for handling such an "extremely sensitive" position as an adviser to President Reagan.

"That post is not even for an economist per se," Mr. Costik said in an interview. "It is for an economist who can blend international security considerations with economic considerations," he said.

Mr. Costik said the post of international economic affairs adviser should be handled by an expert capable of drafting long-term strategic plans.

"This man has absolutely no qualifications whatsoever for that," said Mr. Costik, a specialist in East-West trade and security issues.

A Pentagon official said Mr. Danzansky has no experience in national security trade issues, the area of responsibility he would have in the National Security Council post.

The official said the Pentagon has not been informed yet by the NSC on the replacement for Mr. Robinson, but added "we look forward to being consulted."

Mr. Danzansky, 46, served briefly on the Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. During the Nixon administration he headed the White House Conference on Children and Youth, his only previous government experience.

An administration trade official, speaking on the condition he remain anonymous, said Mr. Danzansky previously had opposed the Reagan administration's program to tighten export controls of strategic technology and goods. The official said Mr. Danzansky favors a policy of unrestricted trade, which runs counter to Pentagon and CIA concerns about the transfer of military-use technology to the Soviet bloc.

In 1980 Mr. Danzansky headed the D.C. delegation to the Republican National Convention and during platform committee debate opposed conservative measures. He was not a member of the D.C. delegation in 1984.

In 1978 Mr. Danzansky is reported to have contributed \$500 to the campaign of former D.C. City Council Chairman Arrington Dixon, a liberal Democrat. He is also a close friend and supporter of D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy, a leading supporter of economic sanctions against South Africa.